

CLAIMS

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers, comprising:

a body member constructed of a top wall, a bottom wall, a front wall and two sidewalls forming a back opening for loading or unloading wafers into or out of said body member;

a cover member for sealingly and removably engaging said back opening of the body member; and

latch means carried on said cover member for latching said cover member onto said body member, said latch means being actuatable and operable linearly from a latched condition in which said cover member is latched onto said body member to a released condition allowing removal of said cover member from said body member when engaged linearly by a latch key of a door opener situated in a loadport onto which said pod is positioned.

2. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 1, wherein said latch means further comprises at least two locking tabs for engaging receptacles provided in said body member.

3. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 2, wherein said at least two locking tabs being operated in a linear manner when engaging or disengaging said receptacles.

4. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 1, wherein said latch means further comprises two latch holes for linearly engaging said latch keys of the door opener in said loadport.

5. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 4, wherein each one of said two latch holes operates at least one locking tab for engaging one of two opposite sides of a loadport opening.

6. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 4, wherein said two latch holes move in a linear manner to linearly engage at least two locking tabs of said latch means to an opening of said loadport.

7. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 2, wherein said at least two locking tabs are spring-loaded for returning said at least two locking tabs to a disengaged position.

8. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers, comprising:

a body member constructed of a top wall, a bottom wall, a front wall and two sidewalls forming a back opening for loading or unloading wafers into or out of said body member;

a cover member for sealingly and removably engaging said back opening of the body member; and

latch means carried on said cover member for latching said cover member onto said body member, said latch means further comprises:

at least two locking tabs with at least one operating on one of two opposing sides of said cover member for engaging receptacles provided in said body member; and

at least two latch holes with one connected to and linearly operates said at least one locking tab when the latch hole is engaged by a latch key of a door opener in the loadport.

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9. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 8 further comprising four locking tabs with two situated on each opposing side of said cover member.

10. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 8, wherein said at least two locking tabs are spring-loaded.

11. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 8 further comprising an indicator means including means responsive to the position of said at least two latch holes to produce a signal related to the condition of said latch means.

12. A pod for transporting a cassette of semiconductor wafers according to claim 8, wherein said latch means further comprises a drive plate operably connected to said at least two locking tabs such that said at least two locking tabs are drivable by said drive plate to shift said latch means between a latching and an unlatching condition.